

Probers Urge Navy Air Quiz

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

Republican members of a special Senate subcommittee investigating the readiness of the Air Force demanded yesterday that the probe be broadened to include the Navy's air arm.

Sens. James H. Duff (R-Pa.) and Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) told newsmen the investigation into whether the United States is losing the air power race to Russia must include the air capabilities of the Navy.

"Naval aviation is as much a component part of the air power picture as the Air Force," Duff said. "This is not an inquisition but an investigation into the facts. If we leave out the Navy we won't get all the facts."

Chairman Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said he would put the Republican proposal up to Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, parent body of the investigating subcommittee.

Expansion of the investigation is expected to be agreed upon, at least to the extent of hearing top Navy chiefs tell to what degree aircraft carriers and Naval land-based air strength contribute to the Air Force's strategic air power and air defense roles.

Russell appointed the Symington committee after charges were made in the press and by Democrats on the Senate floor that Russia was forging ahead of the United States in strategic bombers, defense fighters and in the development of long-range ballistic missiles. Administration efforts to balance



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ALLEN W. DULLES
...heard by Senators

the budget by curbing air power funds were blamed.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) and Symington (before his appointment to head the inquiry) alleged the Administration was misleading the public about lags in Air Force plane and missile production and development, and also about Red gains in these fields.

Some on Capitol Hill felt the Republican demand to include Navy air in the investigation was an effort to take the counter-offensive against the Democratic critics and bolster the Administration case.

The GOP move came after the subcommittee got a private briefing on Russian air power

from Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The question of how much information on American and Communist arms progress can

be made public is a crucial issue in the investigation. Vice Adm. Arthur C. Davis (USN, ret.) has been named by the Defense Department to clear any closed-door Pentagon testi-

mony before it is released. Davis had a similar role in the 1951 MacArthur ouster hearings.

The subcommittee will complete the "first phase" of its

probe Friday, Symington said, when it hears Gen. Carl Spaatz, former Air Force chief of staff, and Adm. Robert Carney, former chief of naval operations, both now retired, in open session.

The second phase will explore data on Russian air power progress from intelligence and other sources, Symington said. Then top Pentagon witnesses will testify on all phases of American air power and missile situation. Finally, the group will attempt a comparative evaluation of the Soviet vs. American position, he said.

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